

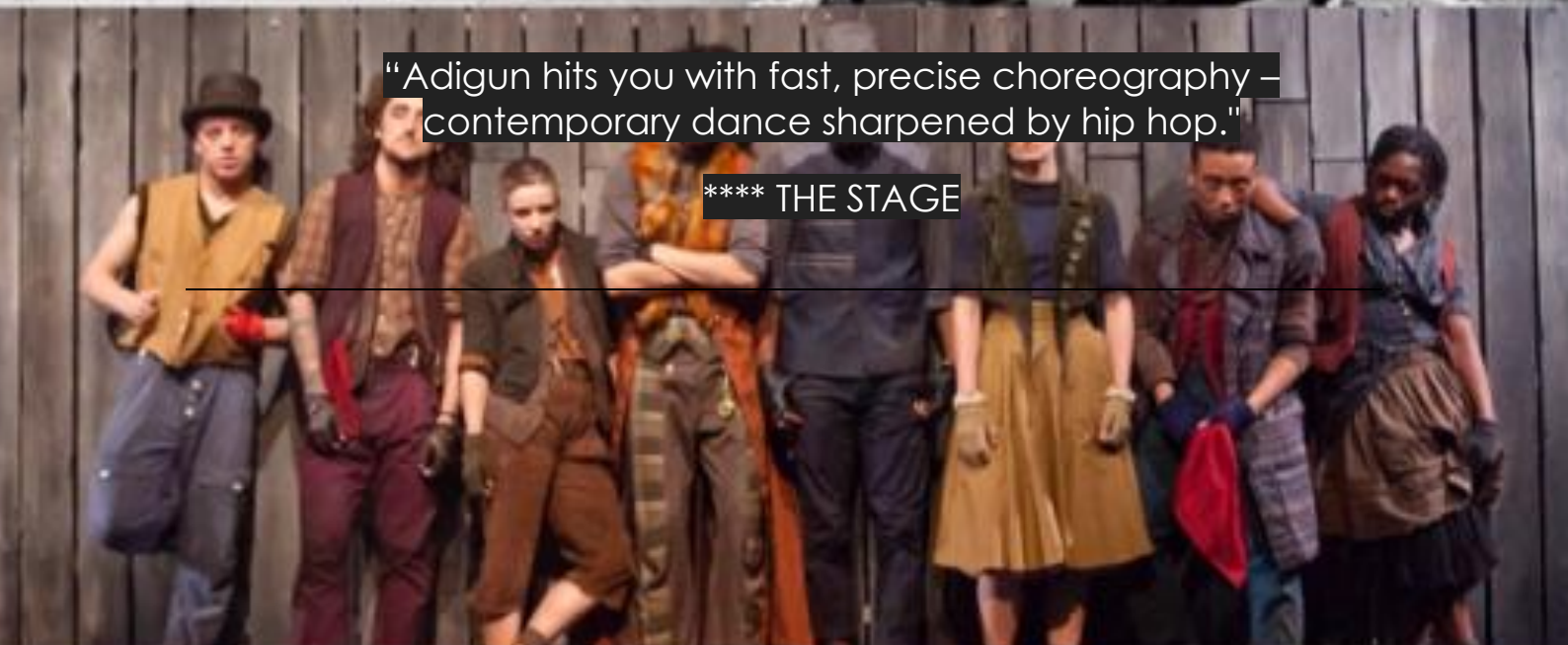


AVANT GARDE DANCE

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT PACK

"Daring, dynamic and hugely enjoyable"

**** THE TIMES



"Adigun hits you with fast, precise choreography –
contemporary dance sharpened by hip hop."

**** THE STAGE



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining Avant Garde Dance Company's Board.

Avant Garde Dance Company (AGDC) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, governed by a Board of Directors.

Avant Garde (AGDC) has performed and produced work both in the UK and internationally. This includes at The Place, Breakin' Convention, Sadler's Wells, Pavilion Dance South West, Southbank Centre, Barbican, Latitude Festival, Greenwich & Docklands International Festival, Brighton Dome, Barcelona Festival and Madison Square Gardens New York.

In the past few years AGDC has reached over 200,000 audiences and engaged over 5,000 young people taking part in learning and participation opportunities.

Nominated for the Best Independent Dance Company category in the National Dance Awards, The AGDC mantra '**Innovate Never Replicate**' is evident throughout the work, as the company embraces a sense of difference and individuality.

AGDC remains focused on its ambitions to take its artistic work to new audiences, to provide innovative development opportunities to diverse artists, children and young people and to build a magnetic brand on multiple platforms from the base of a solid and sustainable organisation.

2026/27 is an exciting time for AGDC as we begin creation of our next major work, *East Side Story*, a hip-hop dance theatre retelling of Romeo & Juliet/West Side Story set within the world of contemporary East London. This work is being developed as a mid-scale theatre piece alongside a complementary outdoor iteration for UK and international festivals. *East Side Story* is commissioned by Dance East and supported by Shoreditch Town Hall, with an extended R&D period scheduled for Autumn 2026. Other recent high-profile commissions and presentations include for FIFA's The Best Awards to celebrate the success of the Women's World Cup, a commission to choreograph new films in 180 VR at the National Gallery and a tour of the Netherlands with *Illegal Dance*. Now is the perfect moment to join AGDC's team.

Our Board currently comprises:

- Tony Adigun - Artistic Director and CEO
- Franck Bordese - Impresario
- Georgia Akande - Marketing and fundraising professional
- Miriam Fagan - Safeguarding specialist

At this exciting stage of the organisation, we are keen to broaden our Board's skill-set; background; network, and are particularly interested in hearing from candidates with expertise in:

- Licensing/monetising back catalogue
- Education (building on the inclusion of our work *Fagin's Twist* in the GCSE Dance syllabus and our strong relationships with Conservatoires and CATs)
- Creative technology (particularly the intersection of tech, haptics and movement, and how we can use technology to make audience experiences more immersive)
- Fundraising

We are also keen to see applications from backgrounds that are under-represented within the industry.

People with senior experience working within the arts would be encouraged to apply, but this is not essential.

The successful applicants will bring passion, energy and enthusiasm to the role. You will be

ready to get stuck in to dream and scheme alongside the SMT and work closely with the Artistic Director to realise the organisation's aspirations.

About Avant Garde

Avant Garde is a critically acclaimed company at the forefront of London's innovative Hip hop/Contemporary Dance scene. The company was founded in 2001 and is led by entrepreneur and maverick Artistic Director/CEO and Choreographer Tony Adigun.

Having gained extensive experience in the world of commercial dance, Tony set out to transform a group of hip hop dancers into a unique company that could explore contemporary influences and create an unusual, abstract and artistic practice. The company's dynamic performances explore a myriad of styles, themes and media, whilst embracing different genres and forms of music, dance, literature, circus and digital work.

AGDC is dedicated to creating and distributing world-class dance with a broad appeal to diverse, intergenerational and multicultural audiences nationally and internationally.

The company is also committed to the learning and participation of young people and provides multiple opportunities for them to engage in the company's work through formal and informal education and engagement opportunities.

Avant Garde's work is underpinned by its mission and a number of core values:

Our Mission:

To produce world-class, innovative and inspiring new dance works for diverse audiences, the wider public and the commercial sector, and to be a unique leader in the provision of training and development for young people and emerging dance artists.

Our Values:

Innovation and risk – Constantly evolving, AGDC's attitude is based around the mantra of 'innovate, never replicate'. We believe in challenging expectations and taking risks – questioning the status quo and pushing at the boundaries.

Collaboration – AGDC believes in the importance of sharing experiences and skills with others. We use dance to collaborate with other creative industries, particularly music, fashion and technology.

Inspiration and transformation – AGDC inspires and is inspired by young people throughout its work. We change young people's lives through artistic experiences as participants, performers, employees and collaborators. We inspire audiences and transform expectations of what dance can be.

Diversity and equality – AGDC believes that to be relevant and inspirational relies on diversity and equality of representation in the industry. We are committed to questioning our own work and systems, and those of our stakeholders and partners, to ensure that all people have access to the arts.

Our Goals

Goal One: Create high quality work that is innovative and inspirational

Goal Two: Explore new and distinctive iterations of our work

Goal Three: Ensure robust governance and financial and managerial best practice

Goal Four: Consolidate and develop our partnerships

Goal Five: Sustain and develop our audiences and extend our reach

Goal Six: To deliver learning and participation activities for children and young people

Role of Board Member

The Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing the management, finances and governance of Avant Garde. The Board of Directors are also responsible for ensuring the efficient running and continued development of the organisation within its stated policy. The Board of Directors are not generally involved in the day-to-day running of the organisation.

The role of Director is **voluntary**, meetings take place quarterly and attendance at company performances and events is encouraged. Additionally, Directors may be asked to sit in sub-committee/ working groups.

While AGDC is based in East London, it is envisioned that for the foreseeable future meetings will be conducted remotely.

Key Responsibilities:

- Ensure that AGDC complies at all times with its governing document, company law and any other legislation or regulations
- Advocate for, champion and promote AGDC
- Contribute towards strategic and business planning
- Stay up to date with the company's activities and ensure that they are in line with the aims and objectives
- Attend Board meetings, contributing knowledge, experience and expertise, and support all Directors to maximise their skills and knowledge
- Use the position on the Board as a fundraising tool for the organisation, through PR, advocacy and networking that may lead to private donors, individual giving or introductions to corporate companies, charitable trusts and foundations
- Work collaboratively with other Directors
- Regular communication with Senior Management Team

Person Specification

- Belief in AGDC's vision, foreseeing a way in which they can support the company's ambitions
- Affinity with the subsidised arts sector
- An interest and understanding of performance making and participatory practice
- An understanding of business finance
- An awareness and understanding of key social and cultural issues, especially surrounding young people
- The commitment and ability to attend at least 3 board meetings and 2 events during the year and an appetite to join relevant sub committees

- The ability to use the position on the Board as a fundraising tool for the organisation, through PR, advocacy and networking that may lead to private donors, individual giving or introductions to corporate companies, charitable trusts and foundations
- Knowledge of the London boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Greenwich & Lewisham

How to apply

AGDC champions and promotes diversity and access across all our activities and our workforce. We are committed to equality of opportunity and encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented groups.

If you would like to begin a conversation about joining our Board, or if you require this information in an alternative format, please contact James Tilston, General Manager on james@avantgardedance.com.